

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
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R 171011Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8963

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 986

EXDIS

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EAID, CB

SUBJECT: CONVINCING CONGRESS ON SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR CAMBODIA

1. FAR BE IT FROM ME TO GIVE ADVICE ON HOW WE CAN BEST  
PERSUADE CONGRESS TO INCREASE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CAMBODIA  
OR TO LIFT THE COUNTRY CEILING IMPOSED IN THE FOREIGN  
ASSISTANCE ACT. ACHIEVING EITHER OF THESE OBJECTIVES  
WILL BE DIFFICULT UNDER THE BEST OF CIRCUMSTANCES. HOWEVER,  
PERHAPS YOU MIGHT FIND THE REACTIONS I OBTAINED WHEN  
TALKING TO SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN LAST SEPTEMBER ON  
CAMBODIA OF SOME VALUE IN DRAWING UP THE ADMINISTRATION'S  
TACTICS.

2. WHEN I TALKED TO SENATORS SPARKMAN, CHASE, REPRESENTATIVE  
HAMILTON AND MANY STAFF AIDES LAST SEPTEMBER I MADE A  
CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN OUR POLICY OF SEARCHING FOR  
"AN EARLY COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT IN CAMBODIA" AND WHAT  
WE ARE TRYING TO DO IN VIETNAM. I STRESSED THAT IN  
CAMBODIA WE NEED THE NECESSARY AMMUNITION TO KEEP THE  
KC AT BAY AND TO FEED THE MANY REFUGEES CREATED BY THE  
WAR. BY PROVIDING THESE FUNDS IT WOULD PERMIT THOSE  
WHO SEEK A COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT TO DO THEIR WORK.  
THE UN RESOLUTION ENDORSED EFFORTS TO FIND SUCH A  
SOLUTION. IF THE GKR DOES NOT HAVE THESE FUNDS THEN IT  
WOULD EVEN BE IMPOSSIBLE TO WORK ON THIS LIMITED  
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OBJECTIVE AND THE GKR WOULD HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO

GIVE IN TO THE MILITARY MIGHT OF THEIR ADVERSARY. I THEREFORE STRESSED THE SHORT TERM NATURE OF OUR FINANCIAL NEEDS RATHER THAN A PROLONGED, SUSTAINED FINANCIAL EFFORT WHICH MAY BE NEEDED IN OTHER AREAS OF INDO-CHINA. I THINK IT IS ALSO NOTEWORTHY THAT CAMBODIA, UNLIKE VIETNAM AND LAOS, IS A RICH NATION WHICH BEFORE THE WAR EXPORTED 250,000 TONS OF RICE WHICH ON TODAY'S MARKET WOULD EARN HALF A BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE. HENCE ONCE THE CONFLICT IS BROUGHT TO AN END, CAMBODIA WOULD RAPIDLY BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT.

3. WHEN RESPONSIBLE NEWSPAPER REPORTERS QUESTION ME ON THE PROBLEM OF SUPPLEMENTAL ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA, I ALWAYS TRY TO CLEARLY DRAW THIS DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE IMMEDIATE BUT SHORT TERM NEEDS OF CAMBODIA VS THE LONGER-RANGE REQUIREMENTS OF VIETNAM. I EMPHASIZE OUR POLICY OF SEEKING A COMPROMISE SOLUTION AND I HAVE FOUND THAT THIS ARGUMENT FALLS ON MORE RECEPTIVE EARS THAN LINKING CAMBODIA TO VIETNAM. ALSO STRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECT, I.E. TWO OUT OF FIVE MILLION KHMERS ARE REFUGEES WHO FREELY SEEK REFUGE IN GKR ENCLAVES AND WHO NEED TO BE FED BY US SUPPLIED RICE, RUNS INTO LITTLE RESISTANCE. THE RECENT COMMUNIST OFFENSIVE HAS GENERATED 60,000 ADDITIONAL REFUGEES AND ALL JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY KHMER AND VOLAG EFFORTS TO PROVIDE THE REFUGEES WITH THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE.

4. I SHOULD ALSO ADD THAT THE SENATORS, CONGRESSMEN AND STAFF AIDES I SAW IN SEPTEMBER ALL SAID TO ME AT THAT TIME THAT IF CLEAR EVIDENCE CAN BE BROUGHT TO THEM THAT A POLITICAL SOLUTION IS BEING WORKED ON AND THAT THEREFORE IN THE MEANTIME THE GKR MUST HAVE ADEQUATE FUNDS TO STAY AFLOAT, THIS ARGUMENT WOULD CARRY WEIGHT WITH THEM. ONLY IF THE LEGISLATORS ARE CONVINCED THAT WE CAN DRASTICALLY CUT DOWN OUR AID IN THE FUTURE DID THEY APPEAR WILLING TO EVEN ENTERTAIN THE IDEA OF PROVIDING ADEQUATE FUNDS FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR. IN THIS RESPECT MY CLIENTS HERE ARE IN A DIFFERENT POSITION FROM OUR VIETNAMESE FRIENDS. IN SHORT, OUR MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA  
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HAS BEEN DESIGNED SOLELY TO PROVIDE THE NECESSARY UNDERPINNINGS FOR AN EARLY POLITICAL COMPROMISE SETTLEMENT.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** LOBBYING, CENTRAL LEGISLATURE, APPROPRIATIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** RowellE0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PHNOM00986  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750019-0070  
**From:** PHNOM PENH  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750142/aaaabksg.tel  
**Line Count:** 111  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** RowellE0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <13 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CONVINCING CONGRESS ON SUPPLEMENTAL AID FOR CAMBODIA  
**TAGS:** MASS, EAID, CB  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006